



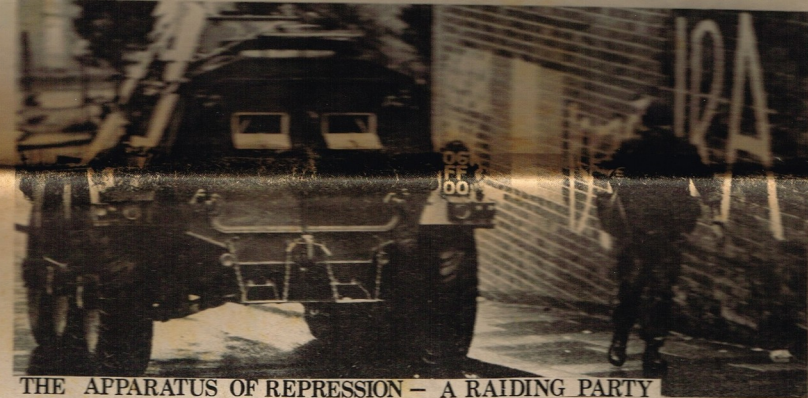
INTERNMENT — TWO YEARS LATER

Two years later and there are still over 800 men and women imprisoned without charge or trial in Britain camps in England. Look at the front and these three days we would have seen that Government in London would not have been able to support their own men in the new called the New Britain. Government is no longer called upon to be an equal partner in the process of the Republic of Ireland.

They notice any difference in their situation. Ask them when they wake up in the morning and realise that they are still in a British hell hole do they think that their circumstances have changed because Long Kesh is now the Maze Prison and Internment is now called Detention. Ask any Irishman who has been interned over the last two years whether the huts are any more comfortable, whether the guards are any less inhuman, whether the food is any better, whether the visits are any more frequent and most important of all, whether he feels any the less imprisoned because the names have been changed.

Of course, especially in the early days of internment, the actual denial of freedom was but one facet of the vicious tactics used by the British to break our people. The torture tactics used widely at that time have left their mark. Professor Robert Daly of University College, Cork, has recently published a study in which he interviewed about twenty men who had been subject to the torture processes. He found that they were suffering from long-term mental illness as a result of the torture. He said, 'The commonest symptoms I found were of marked anxiety, fear and dread, as well as insomnia and nightmares.' He also said that the men had 'a diminished will to live' and that the men have said that they would rather die than face another interrogation. The hooding and the noise machines are supposed to be no longer in use but as the Professor pointed out, there are many techniques short of these that can produce similar effects.

But what of the men interned now? They are subject to constant harassment from the guards. Their huts are continually searched and their few personal belongings are constantly being taken or destroyed. Occasional-



THE APPARATUS OF REPRESSION — A RAIDING PARTY

'I was taken from home and beaten up and was pulled by the hair out of the house into a Saracen car. I had rifles and rubber bullet guns pointed at me until I got to Sea Eagle. All this time I had only my trousers on and you can guess what it was like at a quarter past four in the morning.'

'But now after all this time it is the working-class people who are up in arms. And now the people of Ireland are saying to their lords and masters, the tyrants and murderers, 'You can never conquer Ireland, you can never conquer the Irish passion for freedom.'

'Someday the truth about this whole affair will be told and that day let every Englishman and woman look into their souls and feel ashamed of their so-called army. The people of Germany after the war were at least able to say they did not know what was going on. What are the people of England going to be able to say?'

(THE ABOVE QUOTES ARE FROM AN INTERNEE'S LETTER WRITTEN IN AUGUST 1971)

ly the constant tension is broken by the internees fighting back and the troops use this as an excuse to invade the huts in force and injure and smash all before them.

And while this is going on the internees know that they are being sold out by the very people who said that they would have no talks while one man remained interned. The SDLP and the Nationalists practically fell over themselves to talk to Whitelaw forgetting all their rash promises about internment. The SDLP rush into the Assembly only too willing to share power while the people they promised to stand by are still rotting in Long Kesh.

There is only one way forward and that is a mass campaign to free the internees. This campaign must unite

all those who wish to see internment ended and must not be the prerogative of any one organisation. The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Campaign have recently launched a national and international campaign to publicise the plight of the internees using the case of the six women internees as a spearhead. In Derry the Republican Clubs and the Provisionals have united on a local basis to commemorate and demonstrate during the anniversary of internment.

Much can be done in Britain during the coming months to ensure that we will never see a third anniversary of internment. The importance of it cannot be overestimated. If the British Government can get away with internment for ever it will not be long

now before it is introduced in the 26 Counties, and don't be under any illusions - it can also happen in this country. It is up to Irish people in this country to explain to their British workmates that, despite the impression they may gain from their papers, internment still exists, that internment means imprisonment without trial. Especially now that there are small signs that the bi-partisan policy of the Labour Party is breaking down everybody should be raising the right questions with their MPs. No opportunity should be lost to raise the subject of internment, in trade unions, public meetings and wherever possible. Two years now internment has lasted. That is two years too long. Release the internees!

The map above will show why it is that the only Irish people likely to benefit directly from the exploitation of the nation's gas and oil resources are those with plenty of money to gamble, and a stockbroker to place their high finance bets.

For the only reason that even Irish big businessmen are being granted a chance to participate in the operations of the Marathon consortium is that Marathon are short of 'risk capital'. What this means is that Marathon want to raise money

to finance exploration of the Irish continental shelf without being under any obligation to repay the sum involved or pay interest on it. Instead, they offer those prepared to take the risk a percentage of the royalties on any oil or gas discovered which they decide is worth producing commercially. If they fail to find any commercially viable reserves then the money invested by Petroleum Royalties is simply lost. The scheme has obvious advantages for the banks, but it is doubtful that it doesn't inhibit their chances of getting banking loans for their enterprise elsewhere.

Marathon have also leased out some of their concession to Esso. Marathon will probably cut 50/50 on the proceeds of any Esso successes. In return it is not liable to put up any capital for Esso, nor will it have to pay investors in Petroleum Royalties of Ireland Limited one penny on profits made in the Esso area of operations.

There's no doubt about it, compared with Flanna Fail, the old Free Staters were selling their foreign investors short.

'It is a problem which cannot and will not have a military solution. On the other hand, you can play a part and help to end the tragedy, for the following reason:

THE ARMY IS AT PRESENT ACTIVELY RECRUITING IN LEEDS SCHOOLS.

'Mobile recruiting vans are touring Leeds schools talking to school-leavers and sixth-formers using their usual questionable methods to get men to fight in the north of Ireland. If

'It costs you, the taxpayer million a year to bolster up rapt and totally discredited in the north of Ireland. Think what this could achieve if spent on jobs and homes in Britain. It is the Army which upholds this rotten system. Do you want your son involved?' We are asking for your support in this campaign. You will have

arrested. When they appear in court they are handcuffed to each other and to the dock. Although the police have presented no evidence against them, they have been repeatedly refused bail. One of the three, Michael Kneasey, was meant to have a steel plate removed from his hip and a lar-

Since the arrests a defence
tee has been set up. Blackburn
oners' Aid Committee held a c
and social to raise funds for
as a result were able to cont
£121. Thanks are due to the p
who so generously supported t
idh and the appeal for funds.

Dear Comrades,

As your readers are undoubtedly aware, the next few weeks have two very important dates in the continuing Irish struggle. July 31 is the anniversary of Operation Motorman when the British tanks crushed the no-go enclaves in Belfast and

- the trial is not until October at the earliest. But we do not distinguish between political prisoners in Long Kesh, in the Curragh or in Winslow Green. We call for the unconditional release of all Irish political prisoners, the ending of internment.

Coverity for a rally with national speakers. All organisations who act in this way support the search and rally which is the basis of the campaign. We are invited to send speakers along too. We hope for an enthusiastic response to this from the people in Coventry. However, we urge all socialists, republicans and trade unionists throughout the Midlands area to participate in these activities. We must combat the increased repression in Britain, (the use of conspiracy laws) and show those struggling in Ireland for self-determination that we have not forgotten them.

Further details about coaches leaving from towns in the Midlands, speakers, etc., please contact the Coventry Prisoners Defence Committee at the above address.

Barry Doyle of Sinn Féin (Eric) followed. He was a friend and comrade of O'Leary and he planned the reasons for the Union Martin carried out in his up a Mogul Co. transformer - action in which he died. Martin said, was not a faultless hero but endeavoured to apply the lessons learnt by the Republican Movement by being involved at every level of the people's struggle. These were lessons learnt bitterly by the Movement in the struggle against Imperialism. Martin symbolised the results of the process of re-education after 1962, the understanding of the necessity of socialism. Cde. Doyle then detailed the fight since 1971.

(continued page three)

ON MESSIAHS HOUSING & NATO.

F.F. FAILURE

Seamus Ffai is still managing to make mileage out of their success in the Presidential election. While the Evening Press grandiosely declared that 'Childers takes the helm', the party machine organised a big send-off for the previous 'helmsman', De Valera. The highlight of Dev's farewell was a cavalcade from the Vice-regal Lodge to Bolands Mills, where he commanded the Irish Volunteers in 1916. It was a journey that telescoped Dev's career in reverse - from 'revolutionary' to 'elder statesman' - and one tragically frequent in Irish history.

One recalls the United Irishman Thomas Addis Emmet who became Attorney General of New York, the Young Irelander, Gavan Duffy, who became Governor of New South Wales and Michael Collins, who forged his secret army into a formidable military machine and then made a political capitulation to British Imperialism that shattered the same weapon when he attempted to turn it against the very people it had sprung from. De Valera has certainly come a long way since he founded the 'Republican Party' in 1926 to fight the 'New State' 'sell-out'. It is a path-way marked out by the execution of John D. O'Connell under Plunket's regime and one which has led him through the 'sell-out' of his final survival speech to the party faithful he acknowledged his failures - to unite the country, to restore the Irish language, to carry through the struggle for national liberation. It is doubtful if even now however he can understand the reasons for failure, the survival and natural development of any nation is impossible while its economic and social fabric are owned and controlled by a foreign imperialism, and the people are taught to rely on themselves, and not a 'messiah' for their deliverance.

Cut-Price Dev

A grisly reminder of just how complete that foreign control over Irish life is was demonstrated the same week by the British based publishers Gill & Macmillan, who released a book entitled 'The Life and Times of Eamon De Valera'. While hard back copies retail at £13.85, booksellers have been told that a special paperback edition is ready for distribution as soon as Dev dies - at a cut rate price.

Housing Havoc

Readers of the United Irishman will, no doubt, have been following the struggle of the young couples squatting in Fenian Street against local speculators closely. They may not have realised that the problem of homelessness is not one confined to Dublin. At O'Briensbridge, near Limerick, a young couple are living with their two children in a shed. The husband, Bernard Murphy, is a machine operator who had been renting a caravan for £5 a week. 'I applied to the Clare County Council for a house and three months ago we had to leave the caravan when the owner wanted to raise the rent to £12 a week, which he could earn by placing it at the seaside,' he told newsmen.

The Murphys moved into a shed attached to a deserted Garda barracks. The shed has no lighting and Mrs. Murphy has to look after the children in a room filled with the fumes of a smelly oil fire. The bedclothes are permanently damp. The Clare Council have been unable to find accommodation for the family and have refused to comment on their plight.

There is nothing exceptional about the O'Briensbridge experience. Throughout the 26 counties the local authorities are finding it increasingly difficult to house the growing number of homeless young couples because of the high interest rates on housing. So far their only solution has been to increase rents and reduce subsidies on existing accommodation in an effort to make families on council estates finance the housing programme directly. It was this policy which provoked the NATO rent strike. Although the government had applied differential rents on housing estates in the past these had been based on the total earnings of the family, including overtime payments, bonuses etc. Income tax on basic pay and welfare contributions were not taken into account and every opportunity to adjust rent upwards with regard to inherited tenancies was taken. Rents were also subject to arbitrary increases by the government and local authorities to cope with rising interest rates and 'inflation'. It was just such an arbitrary increase in Dublin rents which sparked off a nationwide rent strike organised by NATO. The strike has continued with remarkable solidarity since last May.

Ham-Fisted

The government made a determined but ham-fisted attempt to confuse and demoralise the strikers in the winter of 1972/3 by minimising the effectiveness of the strike. The worst blunder of the government was to issue false figures on the numbers on rent strike and the value of the rents withheld. As these figures were not circulated to local authorities situations arose like the one in Cork, where Mr Molloy, the then Minister for Local Government, claimed only £57,000 was being withheld in rents while the City Manager, in the same week, admitted the figure of £146,000.

There is no doubt that the Coalition Government recognise that their electoral success is in large part due to pre-election promises, including promises of concessions to NATO. The new Minister for Housing, Tully, has dutifully presented his peace terms to NATO, including the scrapping of the old system of rent assessments based on total family earnings, allowances for income tax and welfare levies, and a 3 year freeze on maximum rents. He has also tacitly accepted NATO as a national structure representing all council tenants.

No Compromise

NATO for its part has met Tully's proposals coolly. Although the Association has been through a long and tough fight holding a new, and very diverse, movement together, it is by no means at the end of its tether. Tully and the Coalition have not delivered as much as they promised before the elections. Matt Larkin, general secretary of NATO, warned: 'We submitted a block of proposals to the Minister, and a decision by our members to end the strike will not be taken until we have a favourable settlement on other important issues among these proposals.'

The fact is that NATO is a new organisation. This means that although its constituent parts are very varied the Association as a whole is much more democratic in its structure and responsive to grass roots pressure, while determined local leadership has a bigger influence than in the much more bureaucratised trade unions. There can be no cosy compromises between the Minister and the leadership, even if the NATO leadership desired such a compromise.

The way forward

As it is, peace is in sight, and a hard-fought, if limited victory for the tenants. Sooner or later however the peace must be broken again as the interest rates of the banks once more bear down on the housing authorities. A major task now confronting all socialists and republicans engaged in the housing situation is to explain to their fellow tenants why the problem of rent increases is sure to recur shortly and what action must be taken to solve the problem. Ultimately the only solution can be the emergence of a government in Ireland prepared to put the people first - a government prepared to nationalise the banks that bleed the housing programme white with their interest rates, a government that will take back its mining and prospecting concessions to international firms like Marathon and Esso, a government that will be very different from the ones formed by De Valera and his Fine Gael counterparts in the last fifty years of 'independence'. In short, a working people's government for a socialist Republic - the only real basis for effective national unity and the survival of the Irish culture. Fianna Fail and Dev have given so much in service to.

CLAIMANTS' UNIONS- WHAT ARE THEY?

People claim state benefits for a different reasons, but most claimants get the same useless treatment from local employment exchanges and Social Security offices. Unemployed workers, single mothers and old people not getting enough pension to survive are just some of the millions in the country forced to claim from the state because prices, rents and fares are too high. Claiming benefit can be complicated and confusing. It's full of forms like B1, P45 and P16, you hardly ever get a straight answer from the staff and they are always quoting regulations at you that you have never heard of and they have never shown you.

There are many Claimants Unions in the country that are trying to help claimants organise themselves under the slogan 'United we fight, united we win'. The Unions are self-help organisations, made up of claimants themselves but often with expert advice from groups like the Child Poverty Action Group. The idea is that alone the claimant is isolated but with united action claimants can begin to break down the masses of rules and regulations under which they are judged, clean up the offices which are often dirty and without proper provision for kids and get the full benefit that claimants are entitled to.

Very often the amount of money given to the claimant is not set in law but up to the decision of the local office. Local offices can set, for example, a maximum amount of rent they will pay for the claimant but they will not tell you that you can appeal against the decision and demand a 'high rent assessment' where they can pay over the maximum they have set. Claimants are entitled to a 'special clothing allowance' to pay for essential clothing for themselves and their kids, but they won't tell you this at the office. Claimants Union meetings often have a special part for new members to ask the rest of the Union for help. Claimants who have some experience can

help new claimants to ask the rest of the Union for help. Claimants who have some experience can help new claimants to get all they want and go to the office with them so that they are not intimidated by the Officials.

Claimants Unions also try to put a stop to the snooping and prying of the Officers. Single mothers are often spied on to see if they are living with a man, cohabiting it's called. If a man stays even one night they will try to cut off the benefit of the claimant and if the mother is on her own arguing against the petty bureaucrats in the office she will quite often lose her case.

The Officers in the Supplementary Benefits offices in the country often have the idea that every single claimant is a layabout on the scrounge. Their idea is that we can all get highly paid jobs at the drop of a hat and their one aim in life is to give us as little money as possible. This has been proved recently by the publication of some of their files which have been 'liberated' from their offices in London. They collect information on claimants which has nothing at all to do with the claim.

The harsh rulings of the local offices are often presented as the final word. But there is an appeals system by which a claimant, who thinks that he or she has been cheated of their rightful money, can appeal to an 'Independent Tribunal'. These tribunals are often not sympathetic to the claimant and therefore it's better to have representation at the appeal. This is where the Claimants Union comes in again.

Many of the big towns in the country have their own Unions which are quite well known because they regularly leaflet the local offices. But if you cannot find your local group contact Rose Catha and we'll give you the address of the local Union.

M.Duncan

THE UNION IN THE NORTH AREA, IRELAND, INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF A NEW BRITISH WORKERS UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN IRELAND AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THEM. AS HE SAID, A DIFFICULT TASK BUT A VITAL ONE.

Last to speak was Seamus Collins (President, Clann) who developed many of the points raised earlier and their relation to the work of Clann. He paid tribute to the leadership of the Movement who had, at the most difficult time, directed it towards the correct policies for tackling and defeating imperialism. They had refused to allow Connolly and Tone to be forgotten or distorted, understanding how the omission of the lessons learnt by those great fighters for the Irish people had allowed the Movement to be diverted from the central struggle. In this difficult, and often confusing, period, Clann must remember this despite short-term difficulties and the glamour of 'quick' solutions.

Sean Loughran

Sean Loughran, a member of the Provisionals, died recently while on active service. Sean had many friends in Clann in the Yorkshire area. Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family.



REMEMBER THE PRISONERS



Below we publish an interview by Eamonn Smullen with Finbar and Marie Kissane. Finbar Kissane, sentenced to two years in prison because he loaned a driving licence to a friend, has recently been released. Finbar, along with Michael Duggan who was sentenced to three-and-a-half years, stood trial in Winchester with Noel Jenkinson on charges relating to the explosion at Aldershot barracks. Finbar was cleared of any complicity in Aldershot. While reading this interview we ask you to remember Noel Jenkinson who is serving a 30 year sentence. Noel was convicted on perjured evidence and has recently been

refused leave to appeal. He was not even allowed to be present in court while the application for leave to appeal was heard. Can you stand by and allow this man to spend the rest of his life in prison for an offence he did not commit? Are we, the Irish people in Britain, going to allow this trade unionist and socialist to rot in an English jail? If you want to do something to help, contact the Prisoners Aid Committee at 318 Lillie Road, London S.W.6; the PAC are mounting a campaign to get Noel released and they need every bit of help they can get.

by Eamonn Smullen

Eamonn Smullen: Can you give me some detail about your arrest and imprisonment?

Finbar Kissane: At about 2 p.m. on an afternoon in February, four Special Branch came to search our house. I was at work at the time, only my wife was at home and a girl who was employed to help my wife run the nursery at our home - an established properly equipped nursery. Naturally the children were there at the time.

Marie Kissane: It was a dark afternoon in February but they put out all the lights and wouldn't allow me to switch them on again - even when it became really dark and the mothers came to collect their children. As each mother knocked on the door a policeman opened it and then they all entered around her and they started to ask questions.

F.K.: When I arrived they jumped on me.

M.K.: The girl who worked there used to go home at 1 p.m. but they forced her to stay until 6 p.m.

F.K.: We were both taken to Scotland Yard between six and seven.

M.K.: I was allowed to return after questioning just before midnight.

F.K.: As we were leaving ten policemen arrived with equipment, bars and so on, to rip up the floor-boards etc.

E.S.: Did they make good the damage? F.K.: Well, they replaced the floor-boards in a more or less all right way; but one bedroom fireplace which they ripped out, finished with tiles and so on, was very badly damaged and was not replaced.

E.S.: Did they take away items of your property?

F.K.: Yes, my tools, cans of paint and some other items connected with my work and which had no bearing on any part of the case, and which they still have not returned. Some money which we had hidden away was missing.

E.S.: Several of our members have reported money missing after police raids. You were not here when they searched the house?

M.K.: I was here at first, then we were both taken to Scotland Yard. Ten police were coming in to search as we were being taken away.

E.S.: Did they tell you both that you were being arrested?

F.K.: No, they just crowded round and said: 'You are coming to Scotland Yard.' I asked if we were being arrested and they said: 'No, but you are both coming to Scotland Yard. They crowded around us and we had no option but to go out to the cars.

E.S.: How long were you at the Yard?

F.K.: I was held there all night, two Special Branch were with me all the time, even when I was asleep. When I went to the WC they would not allow me to close the door. I was taken to the Yard at about 7 p.m. on Wednesday and at midnight on Thursday night. I was taken to Kennington police station. I had nothing to eat or drink all that time except two or three cups of coffee. I asked for food when I arrived at Kennington

police station but the policeman on duty on the cells said, 'We have no food, Paddy, not even for ourselves.' I asked for a cup of coffee and he said, 'We have no coffee, Paddy, not even for ourselves.' I asked for a cup of water and he said, 'We have no water, Paddy, not even for ourselves.' It was cold but I was forced to part with my jacket and my shoes.

In the morning I was taken back to the yard without breakfast. I asked for food when I arrived at the Yard but they said, 'You had breakfast at Kennington police station, we saw the tray outside the door of the cell. I was refused food and the questioning continued. At about 1 p.m. that day, Friday, I was given some sausages and mash.

They made me remove my shoes when they were questioning me; sometimes they lifted me up and the questioning went on and on.

At about 4 p.m. I was brought to Paddington police station for an identity parade. I hadn't been allowed to wash or shave since my arrest, not even to comb my hair. I refused to go on the ID parade until I had seen a solicitor and until I'd had an opportunity to freshen myself up a bit. I did see a solicitor before the ID parade but the only freshen up I was allowed was to do my hair with a comb supplied by my solicitor from his pocket. Anyway, from their point of view the ID parade was a failure because no one picked me out.

They tried to force me to put a blanket over my head going to Paddington police station; they also tried to force me to duck down in the car. I refused to do either.

E.S.: They often do things like that to create an atmosphere around a case and really there was no case against you.

F.K.: There was no case at all against me and there is no case against Noel either.

E.S.: Did you have any visits during that time, from your wife, for example?

M.K.: I went to Scotland Yard to see him but they told me that they had never heard of anyone of that name.

F.K.: I was taken to Aldershot police station on Saturday and was finally charged on Sunday night. I was held in Aldershot police station until the following Friday, then I was taken to prison.

E.S.: What happened in prison?

F.K.: I was taken to Winchester Prison. I was forced to wear prison garb - shoes from which most of the heel had gone and an old pair of trousers which carried a very strong smell of urine.

E.S.: Did you have any visits from your wife in all that time?

M.K.: When I went to see him I was told by a policeman that he'd had his visit for that week; I didn't know anything about rules or what visits a remand prisoner is allowed.

I thought he was only allowed one visit per week.

F.K.: The police were on all the visits. My wife told me that the

FINBAR KISSANE - INTERVIEW

police had called at the house and told her that they'd had a phone call that a bomb had been placed in our home, and that they had to search it. So as not to worry her, I said it was probably just another excuse for a police search. The policeman listening to our visit said, 'We don't have to do that to search your house; we can get a warrant to do that any time.'

E.S.: What happened in prison?

F.K.: I was held in complete solitary confinement, not even allowed to exercise with other prisoners.

E.S.: You were treated in this way for how long?

F.K.: For a period of nine months, until the trial was over.

E.S.: Did you not see the others at the committal proceedings?

F.K.: Yes, but never alone; there was a policeman with each of us all the time and we were in different cells under the court.

E.S.: Were you not allowed to meet to prepare the case? I remember that the Angry Brigade prisoners were allowed to meet at Brixton in order to discuss their case. They even brought Jake Prescott to Brixton from Gartree Prison so that he could take part in these meetings, in the sight but not in the hearing of prison staff.

F.K.: We were given no opportunity at all to meet to discuss our defence. We were all held in complete solitary confinement for nine months and that is a considerable strain. I mean you are taken from this sort of situation into the court, and the trial itself is another strain, and then you have to face highly skilled questioning in the witness box and your performance there is compared by the jury to evidence given by policemen skilled in giving evidence in court.

E.S.: And you can't explain to the jury what your life in prison has been like for the past nine months. What was your treatment in prison like apart from the solitary confinement?

F.K.: I was allowed to wear my own clothes after a short period in prison garb but any time I had to leave the cell, even to go to the WC, I was forced to draw on, over my own clothes, a big overall covered with long yellow stripes. I was a category A and a category E prisoner at this time. As a matter of fact I remained on those categories until I was within seven months of release.

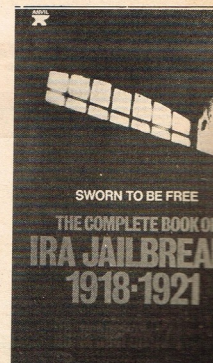
When I was moved to Wormwood Scrubs after sentence, and I was sentenced for a driving licence offence which had nothing at all to do with the Aldershot charges, the other prisoners would not believe that I had never tried to escape: 'Seven months to do', they said, 'an you're still wearing a uniform with long yellow stripes, you must have had it away from somewhere Paddy.'

E.S.: What was the attitude of the staff to you?

F.K.: Very bad. Well, they were mostly ex British Army, as you know. I was continually searched, sometimes when there were two warders in the cell searching, and another two would be waiting outside the door to come in and search my cell. I had to put all my clothes outside the cell door at night, sometimes they'd be lost in the morning, someone would move them to another place. The staff were hostile. I remember two warders came into my cell one day swinging their batons, one said, 'We are allowed to do anything we like short of murder and do don't we enjoy doing it. I hope for your sake everything is in order in

here.' I was put on a charge of ringing the bell to get out to toilet. I was five in the evening and I hadn't been out of the cell since nine in the morning. I was sentenced to seven days loss of privileges - I never knew until then I had any - but my wife was to take the food back when she came to visit. I wouldn't eat the prison food and ate nothing for a week. A warden said to me, 'You should have tried to defend yourself that charge (ringing the bell to the WC). If a prison officer the governor that he saw you around the landing on your head governor would believe him.'

The Prisoners' Aid Committee very necessary because a person with the problems I was facing after my arrest - I'd never been in such a situation before didn't know what the rules were what I should have and so on. My wife didn't know what visits I could have - they kept her sitting a bush cupboard waiting for a special person to come and see her. When people find themselves in a situation it is necessary that some organisation supplies information on the rules, puts pressure on the authorities when they break rules, which they do all the time. Noel didn't even get leave to go to the WC, in my case the judge's summons brought out that that had nothing at all to do with the case. What I did when I was led up for national service in for example - 'this man who came to this country and took advantage of all we had to offer', and so on then he gave me two years on a licence offence and they still saying it was in connection with Aldershot. I was found not guilty of all the Aldershot charges after summing up which went to 1957 and discussed my attitude to national service. So what did they expect them to do with Noel's appearance?



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BOOK REVIEW

Captain Boycott and the Irish,
J. Marlow, Andre Deutsch, £2.95.

THE PEOPLE'S WAR

By PETER BERRESFORD ELLIS

The entry in the dictionary is rather bald: 'boycott: v.t., to shut out from all social and commercial intercourse - as an act of boycotting, a kind of secular excommunication. From Captain Boycott of County Mayo who was so treated by his neighbours in December 1880.'

I first became interested in the story of Captain Boycott as a young lad, seated on the edge of my 6d. cinema seat furiously sucking at my ha'penny toffee bar and watching Frank Launder's exciting film, sometime in the early 1950s. I then turned to Philip Rooney's novel on which the film was based. As I grew apace I became interested in the facts and turned to Palmer's Land League Crisis and the incomparable Michael Davitt's Fall of Feudalism in Ireland.

Now comes Miss Joyce Marlow's definitive study on the most famous aspect of the days of the Land League ... the story of the struggle at the estates run by Boycott by Lough Mask, Co. Mayo.

In the Ireland of the 1880s the power of despotic landlordism was at its height. Rack rents were followed by mass evictions, as people, faced with several years of bad harvests and famine conditions, could not raise the rent to pay their absentee landlords who were living in luxury in London or Paris. Police and military backed the orders of the landlords to throw the Irish peasants and tenant farmers out of their homes to starve or freeze to death.

The period of the Land League has been called the Land War, but I prefer to call it the People's War of 1879-1882. It was the first time in Irish history that the tremendous energy of the continuous agrarian warfare was organised into a united national movement with specific aims.

Unfortunately the aims were not achieved because the opportunist politicians who led the movement sold out to the government. They had brought the people to the revolutionary brink ... guerrilla warfare had broken out in most parts of the country ... leaders were emerging with strong social political ideologies who would have aided in the setting up of an egalitarian state.

But having taken the people to the brink, politicians like Charles Stewart Parnell drew back, signed an agreement with the government and Ireland had to wait 40 years before another revolutionary situation cropped up.

One thing the movement did achieve was, as Davitt put it, was to topple a feudal system of landlordism and pave the way for 'owner occupation' by small tenant farmers, leading to the basis of agrarian land ownership in Ireland today.

The most striking battle of the People's War was with a landlord's agent, Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott (a petty landowner himself) who managed the estate of Lord Erne on the shores of Lough Mask, Co. Mayo. Boycott had tried to evict his tenants because they could not pay the rent. The local Land League at Ballinrobe decided the best way to fight Boycott was by a campaign of ostracism so that no one would work for him, harvest his crops, supply him with provisions etc.

In desperation Boycott had to have 700 troops to guard his estates plus a corps of volunteers of the Orange Volunteer Force to guard his crops. The crops were harvested at a cost of £3000 and were worth only £300. The 'ostracism' had worked, for Boycott left the country and the Irish stayed.

'Boycott is gone,' remarked Thomas Brennan in the Irish World on 11 December 1880, 'but boycotting remains.'

Boycott and boycotting became words for such action accepted into the English language.

Joyce Marlow has written an immense readable book, told with supreme sympathy for the plight of the people in their struggle against feudal landlordism in the nineteenth century. I thoroughly recommend this one to anyone interested in this turbulent period.

The high standard of scholarship which Miss Marlow displayed in *The Tolpuddle Martyrs* and *The Peterloo Massacre* continues in *Captain Boycott*, which I would go as far as to say was essential reading in the understanding of land ownership in Ireland.

Trade Unionists demand recall of Army

The savage killing of Senator Paddy Wilson on top of so many killings of workers, Catholic and Protestant, was the last straw for many members of the Bristol Labour Movement. While condemning the killings they also recognised that the essential step towards peace in Ireland is the withdrawal of the British Army from Ireland. We reproduce the telegram below along with the names of the signatories. The resolution was telegraphed to Robert Carr, Home Secretary, and Willie Whitaker. Copies were also sent to Gerry Pitt, Harold Wilson, Jim Sullivan (Rep. Clubs), NILP, SDLP, Alliance, N. Ireland TUC and the British TUC. Included in the signatories are dockers, busmen, engineers, postmen, clerical workers, teachers, building workers etc. There are officers, shop stewards and convenors from ten different unions. Rosca Catha will be pleased to hear of any other action like this.

Senator Paddy Wilson

We, members of the Bristol Labour Movement, condemn the callous assassination of a man dedicated to the fight for peace in Ireland. Along with his death we deplore the loss of life of so many workers dedicated to the fight for peace in Ireland be they either Catholic or Protestant.

We call, then, for the earliest withdrawal of the army from Northern

Ireland as an essential step towards allowing the workers of Ireland to arrive at a peaceful solution to Ireland's problems.

Signatories: M. Young (Bristol Council), J. Hodge (TGWU Regional Sec.), D. Bateman (Pres. Bristol Trades Council), P. Keane (AUEW Convenor), L. Smith (Bristol Council), E. Devens (Sec. Bristol Sth. Labour Party), B. Underwood (Vice Pres. Trades Council), J. Llewelyn (Bristol Council), F. Smith (Bristol Council), B. Underwood (Women's Lib.), R. Elvey (TGWU), P. Jordan (NUT), J. Stephen (Ex Pres. Trades Council), J. Channon (ASTMS Chairman, Kingswood District Council), M. Adams (NUT), J. Evans (NUT), R. Gardner (AUEW Convenor), D. C. Womersley (E. Postingsale AUEW District Committee), V. Hubbard (AUEW Branch Pres.), L. Palmer (ASTMS Branch Chairman), M. Denton (NUT), W. Beard (AUEW), E. Purchase (AUEW Branch Officer), S. Phelan (TGWU Rep.), J. Longyear (TGWU), E. Lovett (TGWU Shop Steward), S. Phelan (TGWU), A. Gallagher (AUEW), J. Cheek (TGWU), G.P. Ogbourne (NUT), B. Marshall (GMB), M. Pearce (AUEW), J. Little (Trades Council and League for Blind), I. Elvy, S. Potter (Labour Party), S. Potter (Labour Party), A. Knowles (TGWU Steward), S. Whitford (AUEW Branch Officer), S. Rangan (Labour Party), S. Mellor (ATT), J. O'Brien (UCATT), D. Ryan (AUEW), P. Daly (TGWU).

Clann in action

On Saturday July 9 Rochdale and Manchester Clann, together with the Connolly Association, staged a demonstration and picket in the centre of Manchester on the issue of internment of women. Though the press informed the only photographers visible were the Boys in Blue perched with binoculars and cameras on the roof of the BBC.

In the coming few weeks Clann and the Connolly Association intend to stage poster displays in Manchester on the subject of oppression in Ireland. This will be a campaign lasting for a month during which it is hoped interest will gather, and if successful it is hoped to spread the campaign to other centres in the region.

Clann Rochdale also sent members to lobby Cyril Smith, their MP, and the Rochdale Trades and Labour Council.

Cyril Smith expressed himself in favour for a United Ireland, the ending of internment and the Special Powers Act. He in fact voted against the implementation of the Blacklock Report.

The Rochdale Trades and Labour Council, after persistent lobbying, intend to send a delegation from Rochdale to the Six Counties to see at first hand the situation.

These visits by members of the labour movement can do nothing but good to the cause of the working class in Ireland and we urge all those who can to arrange such visits.

SIDELINES

Ten out of ten

Quote of the month: This month Alistair Burnett, Midweek Special, BBC1 June 29th, when referring to the Assembly Elections in the Six Counties, said, 'Of course, this is very different to a United Kingdom General Election.'

Well done, Alistair, for spotting that the Six Counties are not part of the United Kingdom! Will you take the money or open the box?

Above reproach

The Cowdenbeath Advertiser of June 18 tells us of a mass fight in a bus in which a man had one ear almost sliced off, a girl got punched in the face and several other people got kicks and punches in various places. Four youths were found guilty of various charges arising from the punch-up. The youngest had sentence deferred until he could prove himself of good behaviour. Another two were sentenced to terms in Borstal. The fourth, the one we are primarily interested in, one Peter Campbell of 5 Bishop Avenue, Lochelly, was fined a derisory £30. Question. Why was Peter Campbell only fined when the other two older youths were sentenced to Borstal?

Answer: Because Peter Campbell is a private with the Black Watch and was only fined rather than imprisoned in order, as Sheriff Gordon I.W. Shiach so considerably put it, 'to allow continuation with your army career.' Some judge. Some career. Some army!

Be prepared (1)

Time and time again, Rosca Catha, and the left wing press in general, have pointed out that the present methods used by the Army in Ireland will be used over here someday. This has been borne out by the training of the Territorials and cadets almost wholly in urban warfare, and by the widespread acceptance of Kitson's theories that the Army will be used in bolstering up the government of the day. Yet more evidence came to light in a report by the Colchester Express on June 28. This paper reported that a mock street has been built just outside Colchester to train soldiers in counter insurgency. The street will be made as lifelike as possible with telegraph poles and cars parked here and there.

'The street could be Northern Ireland or any other urban situation

where troops find themselves,' said Captain Tim Earl, staff officer with the 19th Portable Brigade. Lookout posts will be situated at each end of the street from where soldiers will shoot at remote controlled targets. The street will also be available for training to cadets and the Territorial Army. How long before that street exists in reality in Liverpool or Glasgow just as it does now in Belfast and Derry?

Be prepared (2)

Of course we have always had a situation in Britain in which soldiers in uniform would co-operate with the police in times of civil or industrial unrest. Lately we have had new and more serious development. SAS and Army Intelligence men, dressed as policemen, are now training with the Metropolitan Police on political demonstrations. Both the Special Patrol Group and the Special Branch have had Army men attached during the last three months on a semi-permanent basis. A new twist on Kitson's philosophy?

At home with Hume

It should come as no surprise to the many British men and women who fought against Fascism in the last war that the government is now feting the Portuguese fascist Caetano. The man responsible for setting up this betrayal of the thousands of dead is none other than Sir Alec Douglas Hume, one of the appeasers of Hitler at Munich. Under him the Tories have welcomed the Emperor of Japan, Hitler's ally, and strengthened relations with Franco. It is worth noting that Labour - in power - accepted all these relationships.

Beal Feirste

Muinteoir (Beal) de dhith ar Bhunscoil Ghaelach, Beal Feirste Cainteoir dachan no muinteoir ata abalta teagasc tri gaele.Tuarastal ionphleidhte. Scriobh chuig An Runai, 56 Bothar Shaw, Beal Feirste BT11 9PQ. Guthan 615371.

SYMPATHY

THE ARD COISTE OF CLANN NA HEIR-
EANN WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO MARGARET AND
EDDIE REILLY ON THE TRAGIC DEATH
OF THEIR YOUNG DAUGHTER, LINDA.



Yasser Arafat, a leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Irish case is often identified with that of Israel. Two oppressed small nations facing all the odds to survive against hostile neighbours. One fighting colonisation, economic and physical. The other fighting to prevent her people being pushed out into the sea. This sort of analogy stems from propaganda put forward by the hostile news media. Before considering such analogies it is necessary to have a clear view of the Middle East situation and to understand the background to the foundation of the State of Israel.

In 1917, the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, sent a letter to Lord Rothschild outlining his plans for the area. This was later to become known as the 'Balfour Declaration'. In it he stated 'His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.'

Balfour

In 1918 the British occupied Palestine and, in accordance with the declaration, used their best endeavours to turn Palestine into a Zionist State. At that time there were only 50,000 Jews in Palestine, less than one in twelve of the population. They were organising into a State within a State and had formed their own military force, known as the Hagannah, with the object of taking over that State.

At last the indigenous population began to realise the menace they were encountering. Strikes and riots became frequent and the British reply was the harsh policy of setting up commissions of enquiry, designed to control and unarm the population. In all, three White Papers were published, the first in 1922, and the second and third in 1929 and 1939 respectively. (The Cameron, Wiggery and the Peel Commissions.)

During the second half of the 1940s the Zionist forces in Palestine were strong enough to launch a large-scale war against the Palestinian Arab population and the British at the same time. Zionist terrorism and mass expulsions were the kind of tactics known as the Holocaust and the Deir Yassin massacre. On 14 April, 1948, for example, a whole village of about 100 Palestinian inhabitants, mostly women and children, were massacred by Zionist Zionists. These sort of tactics were intended to plant fear among the Palestinian population, in the belief that a simple removal of an oppressed Zionist attack on a village was good enough to put the whole village to flight. Thus the Zionists succeeded in taking over most of the remaining Zionist of the time excepting some of the non-Jewish population.

Not all Zionists

Not all Zionists or Jews can be branded as fanatics. A lot of Israelis in 1948 were put into a position where they had no alternative but to emigrate to Israel, particularly those fleeing the Nazis. They were forced with the outbreak of most countries to allow their entry and were

Rashid Safi writes on 25 years of Zionism

persuaded by the propaganda that Palestine was void of any population. By the time they arrived there it was too late and they were forced to make their homes there. Since that time it has become obvious that only a minority of Jews support the Zionists, many, in fact, supporting the Palestinian cause. Hence the Middle East problem is not a conflict between the Arabs and the Jews, but a conflict between Zionism and the Palestinian people, Arab, Christian or Jew.

On 14 May 1948, the British High Commissioner left Palestine, together with the last British soldier. On that same date, Ben-Gurion announced the establishment of the State of Israel and asked the world for recognition. The USA was the first country to rush to recognise her; seeing in Israel a spearhead for their interests in the heart of the Arab world.

Thus the State of Israel was established on 77.40% of the land of Palestine. It is worth noting that Jewish ownership of land at that time constituted only 7.23%.

Since then, with aid from most of the major powers and a continuous flow of funds from Zionists abroad, Israel has grown to be one of the strongest states in the area.

Suez

In October 1956 it took part with Britain and France in the Suez campaign against Egypt. As a result of this aggression, it succeeded in obtaining the stationing of UN troops on all strategic positions, and hence a route for its ships through the Red Sea.

On 5 June 1967, Israel launched another major attack against the Arab countries, and succeeded in occupying territories three times its size, the rest of unoccupied Palestine, Sinai Desert, and the Golan Heights. This attack was reported in Britain at the time as a war being waged by Egypt and the Arab countries to exterminate the Jews. Later the true facts became known but, typically, were played down by the Press.

This war solved Israel's most pressing crisis; unemployment and internal unrest. It helped, once again, to attract the attention of World Jewry; immigration increased to a peak and the funds started to pour in once again, having reached a record low.

Established

The Palestinians are not, as is popularly believed, exclusively the descendants of the Islamic conquerors of 1300 years ago. They are, in fact, mainly the descendants of the previous native population - Philistines, Canaanites, Hittites, Jebusites, etc.

They were long established there when the early Hebrews invaded the land about 1500 B.C. Not only did they survive the Israelite occupation, they retained a large part of the land remaining in possession after the dispersion and intermingling first with the Arab conquerors in the 7th century, then with the Crusaders in the 11th century.

Fedayeen

Resistance to the Zionist plans for the colonisation of Palestine started as soon as these plans became obvious. In 1936, the longest strike in the history of Palestine took place, with shops and all means of communication shut down for six continuous months. Armed organisations were formed and succeeded in preventing large areas being overrun by the Zionists. Although these organisations were disbanded in 1948, pockets of resistance continued, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

In 1965, after a long period of disillusion with the Arab regimes, their broken promises and inability

to deal with the situation, two groups of Palestinian youths decided to organise their ranks and take the initiative in restoring justice to their people. They formed what is known as Al Fatah and PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine). The activities of these two groups were very limited due to the restrictions imposed on them by the Arab Governments. After the defeat of the Arab armies in June 1967 their numbers grew and they became a force to be reckoned with. The Arab ruling class began to worry about its future and decided to take action before it was too late. In September 1970, with American aid, King Hussein of Jordan succeeded in pushing the Palestinian guerrillas out of his kingdom, after a bloody war, in which more than 10,000 people died. Lebanon tried to emulate Hussein in May 1972, but the guerrillas proved too strong.

The aim of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and all the armed guerrilla groups is to set up in Palestine a democratic, non-sectarian State, where Jew, Christian and Moslem can enjoy equal rights. That is the only solution which can bring justice to both Palestinian Arabs and Jews. The only method of achieving this is to mobilise both Arabs and anti-Zionist Jews in a mass popular war which will end in the overthrow of the Zionist regime.

Ireland & Palestine

British Imperialism wanted to keep Ireland as a colony under its dominance, due to its considerable labour reserve, (workers in the Six Counties earn the lowest wages in the UK) and as a market for its products. As the policy of complete subjugation failed, they resorted to their famous tactic of 'divide and rule'. Ireland was divided into North and South, and the North was inflamed with sectarian troubles.

In the Middle East, the big Imperialist powers realised well beforehand that it would not be possible for them to keep the Middle East under their direct rule for long. As dominance in the Middle East is vital to them due to its strategic position on the cross-roads between Africa, Asia and Europe, and its immense oil wealth, they saw in Zionism and later Israel a means which could be exploited to serve their own interests.

The Irish and Palestinian peoples are conducting a common struggle against a common enemy; Imperialism. Both can learn much from each other's experiences.

For further information on Palestine write to:

- (1) Palestine Action, P.O. Box 492, London SW1.
- (2) General Union of Palestine Students, 58 Old Brompton Road, London SW7.



The two faces of Labour

Both of the speeches reprinted below took place during the debate on the Ireland Emergency Provisions Bill. Both of the speakers are members of the Labour Party. We ask only one question. How can the Labour Party, which, if not socialist, at least claims to be anti-fascist, allow Paget to remain a member? And, at the same time have people like Gerald Kaufman, who, whatever other faults he may have, at least sees the fundamental cause of the trouble in the Six Counties.

Mr Paget, Labour, Northampton: 'I would go much further than that. I would recall Field Marshall Temple. He is not too old. He would store confidence in the troops. I would have martial law. That, according to the customs of war, is the protection granted to an army of occupation in these circumstances. It is to prohibit actions, primarily those of carrying arms, explosives and ammunition, to the danger of troops. For people caught in possession of arms I would have court martial and execution of the sentence within hours. That is the only way of controlling a situation such as this. If we mean to win, that is what we should do.'

My hon. Friend can use any derogatory words he likes. He can call the tactics 'Nazi-like' or otherwise. The German Army was very effective in protecting itself in occupation and on the whole did so according to the laws of war.'

Mr Kaufman, Labour, Manchester, A1916: 'The whole notion of the United Kingdom is a fiction of a nature which misleads us here. I do not accept the notion of a United Kingdom. It is something produced by the minority in Ireland to bamboozle the rest of us into thinking that Northern Ireland is part of an idea called the United Kingdom.'

I do not believe that there is a Northern Irish problem. I believe that there is an Irish problem. The majority in Northern Ireland for which the hon. Gentleman speaks is a minority in Ireland. That majority in Northern Ireland is bound to place a veto upon the future of the whole of Ireland. It is the only way in which Britain can continue to link Northern Ireland with it is by employing these methods barbarism - internment without trial and the rest - the sooner we abandon this fiction, the sooner we accept the inevitable and allow Ireland all the Irish to solve their own problems, Catholic and Protestant together, the sooner will the killing end. As long as we continue to use these methods, the killing will accompany them.'

SAIGHDIUIRÍ

Tuairimí le

Donall Mac Amhlaigh

Be shaoanta an mhaise do dhuine ar bith a cheapadh go liostáltaíonn fíor óga san arm le teann grá dá dtír. Gan amhras ar bith tárlaíonn sé seo in am cogaidh agus is maith an sompla air an bealach a ndeacha na mílte isteach in Arm na hÉireann le linn na hÉigeandála. Ach den chuid is mó ní bhíodh a'fáir ag ógánaigh le h-úil faoi éide saighdiúra ach post a bheith de dhíth orthu nó i gcás an bheagáin athru saoil a bheith uatha. Tá sé seo fíor i dtaobh Arm na hÉireann agus is dea-faoi go bhfuil sé fíor i dtaobh Arm na Breataine Móra. Bua éile ar féidir é a rá mar gheall ar saighdiuirí nach mbíonn aon gáir ag nóch faoi'n gcead acu ar chúrsaí polaitíochta; chaithreas fein trí bhliain sa Chéad Cath Gaelach i nGaillimh agus is beag ná chuais mé aon chomhár faoi'n bpolaitíocht i rith an ána sin go léir. Agus gan dabht ar bith is rud é seo a sheil-eann go breá do na h-údarais; is áit í an t-arm -- arm ar bith, agus is fiú cuimhníú air go bhfuil Arm na hÉireann fíor chosúil ar bhealaigh go leor le hArm Shasana -- nach mbeadh fáilte ar bith roimh tuairimí raidicéla. Chuaigh mé féin, mar shompla, i ngar do bheith caite amach as Arm na hÉireann i ngeall ar phain-fíodí sóisialacha a bheith i mo sheilbh agam ar Churach Cill Dara sa mbliain 1948. Agus ní h-amháin nach níon leis na h-údarais airm go mbeadh smacintí ngamh spleacha ag saighdiuirí ach déanann siad a ndícheall leis na saighdiuirí sin a mhála de réir a n'áirne fein. Ní luaithe fear é faoi éide an t-saighdiúra ná go mbeair ag cothú difríochtaí idir t-saighdiuirí, leagtar éir ar an-chuid rudai gan tabhaigh; d'éile níor áibheal ar bith a rá go n'iompítear an saol bunoscion ar an eacraich sa chaoi agus nach é an áine ceann a bhfuil ar "hippies" faoi a bhfuil a thairneal trídísle ortha thairis aige. Agus ar theacht amach as an arm go dtéir a thear-na is mian go mbeon eithes an airm mar láirneis air, é choinníall siar é dul in oiriúint arís ar an saol nór lámhagh den cheartaic.

Tá a dháta agus anois go bhfuil chuile arm athraithe go mór ó bhí mise mé fein faoi éide an t-saighdiúra agus tá mé sasta glacadh leis nach mbíonn oiread pheidhíochta ar bun go fíú ag na ríaimintí nó na

cathanna coisithe agus mar a bhíodh tráth -- ní mórde, mar shompla, go bhfíntáir ar aon gual le h-aol mar a dheimtí, tráth, ná ní iú a mbeair ag síor-snásu bróga le dúch dearg agus snasán leáite! Mar sinn féin tagann an saighdiuir go mór faoi thionchar an dreama tairna cheannas agus le ró-léir, mo léir, i gcás Arm na hÉireann de go bhfuiltear i mbun bolscaireachta fhrith-Phoblachtacha go treán. Tuairiscíodh ar RTE ansin le deireannas fein go raibh saighdiuirí de chuid na Poblachta (sáin an tsamhail!) ag croitheadh lámha thar teorainn le saighdiuirí Shasana! Go dtéa níor é ní an bhfuil siad meallta, dalta amach is amach ag a gclimfí? Mar is doiligh a shamhailt go ligfeadh a chlaonta do Éireannach ar bith, saighdiuir nó sibhialtach, fáilte a shearadh roimh shean-námha ár dúife agus é faoi éide chatha ar thalamh na hÉireann féin, mé chaigh-féa a bheith in do Phoblachtach ná, fiú mórán guine a bheith agat i gcur-sai polaitíochta le go mbeadh a fhios agat go maith céard tá ar siúl ag Arm Shasana -- brúidiúlaigh, coo-ar-bolg agus dúimhara nuair is féidir é. Céin chaol, mar sin, a chaigh-féaigh agn fhuar de chine Gaeil lámh le? Téann sé that tuisicint agam fein.

Scal eile ar údar scannail i gceart é más fíor go bhfuil aicme áirithe de mhuintir Bhailé Átha Cliath, sé sin lucht na gceoligeannas, a bhfuil ná na "Skin-heads" é meall-taigh isteach in Arm na hÉireann ina gceadta agus iad é ifonadh le fuath do phoblachtóirí d'acnghuth le pol-aist meata úi Choscair na gcon is na gcapall a chur chun oífn. Dúire Máirtín ó Cashman, go ndéana Dia grásta air, dúirt sé a cúig nó a sé de bhlianta ó shoin nach raibh Éire ina stríopach i gceart go dtí anois.

Is baolach go bhfuil sí gafa céim nó dhó eile ar bhealach an stríopachais ón uair sin fein. Míl le déanaí anois ach na daoine sin tá é iarr-raidh ag an RUC a thabhairt tharais agus beidh an chéim is ísle ar fad sroiste aici. Ba bheag an dochar do laochra na Casca a bheith ag iompú ina n'uaigh.

FIGHTING FUND

For the second month running our members and supporters have reached into their pockets and contributed to the Rosc Catha Fighting Fund. Down a little on last month but still very good we have received £28.55. There is still a long way to go before we reach our target of £1200.

Remember, we need this money in order to buy equipment and finance the expansion of Rosc Catha into a bigger and better paper. If you are already a subscriber to Rosc Catha and have already contributed to the fighting fund why not take a few extra copies of the paper each month to sell to your friends?

The contributors this month were: first, a magnificent individual contribution of £10 from M.G. Percival, £2 from Aberdeen, T. McInerney 50p, anon. 50p, J. Durkin 15p, C. Grant £1, J. Williams £1, J. O'Sullivan £1.50, J. Sheehy £1, S. Lalor 90p, A. Devlin £1. From Clann branches we have received: Connie Green Craobh, Bradford, £5, and from the Michael Davitt working group in East London £4.

Remember every contribution, no matter how small, is welcome. This month's total leaves the amount to be raised standing at £1,134.85. A long way to go but with your help we can do it. Send a donation to the Rosc Catha Fighting Fund.

I enclose £.....towards the Rosc Catha Fighting Fund.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....

Donations to 318 Lillie Road, London SW6.



SKIBBEREEN

Oh, father dear, I often hear you speak of Erin's Isle,
Her lofty snows and valleys green, the mountains rude and wild.
They say it is a lovely land wherein a prince might dwell.
Oh, why did you abandon it? The reason to me tell.

Oh, son I loved my native land with energy and pride,
'Till a blight came over all the land - my sheep, my cattle, died;
My rent and taxes were to pay, I could not them redeem,
And that's the cruel reason why I left old Skibbereen.

Oh, well do I remember the bleak December day
The landlord and the sheriff came to drive us all away;
They set my roof on fire with their demon yellow spleen,
And that's another reason that I left old Skibbereen.

Your mother, too, God rest her soul, fell on the snowy ground,
She fainted in her anguish, seeing the desolation round.
She never rose, but passed away from life to mortal dream,
And found a quiet grave, my boy, in dear old Skibbereen.

And you were only two years old and feeble was your frame,
I could not leave you with my friends - you bore your father's name -
I wrapt you in my cot-a-mor at the dead of night unseen.
I heaved a sigh and bade good-bye to dear old Skibbereen.

Oh, well do I remember the year of '48,
When I rose with comrades brave and true to battle against fate.
I was hunted through the hills by slaves who served a foreign Queen,
And that's another reason why I left old Skibbereen.

Oh, father dear, the day will come when vengeance loud will call,
When Irish men with feelings stern will rally one and all.
I'll be the man to lead the van beneath the flag of Green,
When loud and high we'll raise a cry - Revenge for Skibbereen.

ROGER CASEMENT

A ROGER CASEMENT COMMEMORATION WILL
TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE PENTONVILLE PRISON
AT 9 a.m. ON SATURDAY THE 4th OF AUG.
THIS IS THE DAY AFTER THE ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS EXECUTION
Organised by the P.A.C.

GLASGOW

JAMES LARKIN CRAOIBH
PLEASE NOTE THAT IN FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO US AS FOLLOWS:
The Secretary,
James Larkin Craobh,
Clann na hÉireann, (Glasgow)
c/o 318 Lillie Rd.,
London, S.W.6.

EOLAS

EOLAS IS THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS-LETTER OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT AND IS SUITABLE FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN IRELAND.
FOR SUBSCRIPTION RATES WRITE:
SEAN O CIUNNAITH,
30 Gardiner Place,
Dublin 1,
IRELAND.

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Cork Dockers beat the Bosses

A major effort to smash the solidarity of workers in Cork was defeated on Friday 29 June when approximately three hundred dockers, who were supported by a Sinn Fein picket, occupied the premises of the Cork Labour Exchange.

The reason for this action was that the men concerned had been refused unemployment benefit as they had refused to pass pickets of striking Harbour Board workers.

The dockers first became affected by the strike on Friday 22 June when there was work for less than 70 men but this did not deter the authorities from refusing unemployment benefit to all the City dockers even though there was work available for the vast majority of them.

The reason for all this - simply that the Harbour Board (which is planning to spend millions of pounds of public money to develop the harbour for the benefit of foreign industrialists) refused to replace a quay worker who had been transferred to another job.

Thousands of pounds have been sacrificed to AVOID providing a job.

VIOLENCE

At about 10 p.m. when the Sinn Fein picket had been disbanded and public support was at its minimum a large force of Gardai approached the Labour Exchange and tried to remove dockers in possession of the building.

The only defence available to the dockers was a few hastily mobilised members of Sinn Fein whose efforts on behalf of their fellow workers were met with a violence normally associated with the North-east Ulster establishment forces.

One girl in her early twenties was knocked to the ground and kicked in the head (at the time of going to press she was still under treatment) and most of the Sinn Fein members suffered injury of one form or another.

CHARGES

34 dockers were charged under Section 3 of the Prohibition of Forcible Entry and Occupation Act (1971). All the dockers refused bail until they got their unemployment benefit. The following morning the dock employers supplied sufficient cash while negotiations were going on between the ITGWU and the Department of Employment. The negotiations ended with victory for the dockers. So ended another pathetic attempt by the employers and the government to smash solidarity between workers. The easy way out for the dockers would have been to pass the picket but conscious that their actions would have been anti-working class they refused to do so. It is unlikely that when the 34 dockers appear in court again later this month that this action on behalf of their fellow workers or their militant self-defence will be forgotten either by their fellow workers or by the authorities.

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ARMY BEHIND DRUG RINGS

R.U.C. Man Makes Allegation

Rumours are rife in Belfast, that the story of a blackmail scandal involving British Army undercover agents and drug abusers from both Catholic and Protestant ghettos is about to break.

Following the disclosure that officers in the Gloucestershire regiment had attempted to blackmail a 16-year-old boy came allegations that a similar attempt had been made to enlist the son of a prominent trade unionist into spying on the UVF. While neither of these apparently isolated incidents had any drug implications they do show the British Army is prepared to use blackmail in an attempt to widen its intelligence network.

In the circumstances prevalent in Belfast, to be accused of drug-taking could have serious repercussions. Belfast has always been a conservative city and drug abusers are ostracised and treated with contempt. With the threat of this hanging over one's head the temptation to comply with military 'requests' for information must be overwhelming.

Journalists with a leading English Sunday newspaper are said to be finalising a story involving, among others, an RUC drug squad constable and one of his informants.

The story starts when an officer in the drug squad, described only as Constable 'X' in the article, contacted the journalists. After their initial meeting, in Belfast Museum, they drove to the constable's home where he taped a lengthy statement. This deals with events leading up to August 1971, when internment was introduced. He said, 'In the summer of '71 we were approached by members of the Special Branch who asked us to supply full copies of our files. Our senior officers strenuously objected to this because they thought it would destroy our credibility in Republican areas. Until then we had been accepted there as men with no political axe to grind, and only one aim: the eradication of the drug problem. Despite our objections we were ordered to hand over the files and for some months little more was heard on the subject.

'Some time later, however, contacts in both the Andersonstown and Lower Falls areas of Belfast told us that young men with convictions for drug abuse were being arrested by the Army and subjected to twenty-penny fines from further arrest in return for information on Republican activities. Our informants also told us they were breaking contact and that our safety could no longer be guaranteed. 'Ironically, almost identical incidents occurred in predominantly Protestant East Belfast which is a UDA stronghold. As a result of 'political police' actions we are excluded from almost every working-

class district and, in consequence, Belfast is turning into a Mecca for drug abusers. Literally years of hard work has been destroyed and in the future Belfast will be faced with a drug problem of major proportions,' he concluded.

At the next meeting with the journalists, Constable X introduced them to a youth who had acted as a police informer. His story, which was corroborated by the Constable, tells of an inept attempt by Army intelligence officers to set up a heroin ring among students at Queens University, Belfast.

'Last February' (1973), he said, 'two young upper class Englishmen had offered 'finest quality heroin' at low prices in bars and clubs near the university campus. Usually there are less than half a dozen 'mainliners'

Street and beaten up by six young. That same night, their flat, in a quiet residential area near the university, was burgled.

Apart from two military ID cards nothing was taken but every item of personal property was doused with paint. An obscene message telling both men to leave Belfast was scrawled on the wall.

Within 48 hours of the burglary four of the six youths involved in the assault were in military custody. All four were held in Holywood Barracks for three days during which they were beaten up on a number of occasions. No charges were preferred against any of the youths and when released they were told the beating were only a sample of what they'd if they meddled again in business that didn't concern them.



Lastings St. Barracks, Belfast; one of the joint Army-RUC stations where blackmail and drugs are used to obtain information on Republican activities.

in Belfast at any given time so their potential market was limited.'

Undeterred by their initial failure the Englishmen returned some weeks later with much more marketable goods - 'Moroccan Black', 'Moroccan Black' is, as its name suggests, North African hashish. Regarded by connoisseurs as the best in the world it is, in consequence, in very short supply. Within months they had built up a quite sizeable clientele and were almost monopolising the market. This didn't suit the established pushers who took immediate steps to protect their interests. Their first line of defence was the usual anonymous phone call to the drug squad. When this failed to produce the desired results the dealers decided to take more drastic action. Near the end of May both Englishmen were taken from a bar in Great Victoria

An RUC Task Force patrol went to the flat and removed everything in it. The two British Army drug pushers disappeared and have probably returned to their respective units. Despite its faulty start the group work was laid for a brilliant intelligence operation. But for the grudge of the local drug pushers it would be operating still.

Most people will be aware of the 'official' attitude in this country to drugs. Everyone, from the parson to the politicians, condemns their use. The penalties, even for smoking cannabis, are heavy. This incident portrays once again the utter hypocrisy of the ruling class. In this country drugs do not contribute to the bank balances of the ruling class therefore they are condemned and illegal. But, when it suits them to introduce them, when it is a means of gaining intelligence into movements that threaten their position then all morality is thrown to the winds in the pursuit of the one thing that they value most of all their own continued supremacy.

serves. It was a pure miracle, said the spokesman, had it occurred a few minutes earlier or a few minutes later the IRA would probably have got what they wanted.

'For security reasons' none of the officers present at the time of the explosion wishes to talk about it, said senior medical officer Private Harry Wilkins. Asked about the extent of the damage to the structure of Gough Barracks senior engineering officer Private Harry Wilkins replied that it was due for demolition anyway.

Senior military experts are baffled by how terrorists managed to penet-

rate the security ring at the barracks and plant the bombs. One theory they are working on is that the bombs were not, in fact, planted at all.

The theory is that Republican pushers aided by Russian biologist are breeding chickens of the Japanese Kamikaze variety and feeding them powdered gelignite, buckshot and mature wrist watches. In pursuit of this line of inquiry, hard-line RUC investigator Rusty Shillingsworth has been flown in from his weekend cottage in South Africa to interview relatives of the Gough Barracks engineering officer.